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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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TOPE-MCKAY & ASSOCIATES 23852 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY #311 MALIBU, CA 90265			SEDIGHIAN, REZA	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

31

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/800,917	Applicant(s) IZADPANAH ET AL.	
	Examiner M. R. Sedighian	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. This communication is responsive to applicant's remarks/arguments of 5/5/06 in the application of Izadpanah et al. for "Hybrid RF and optical wireless communication link and network structure incorporating it therein" filed 3/5/01. Claims 1-51 are now pending.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-16, 18-24, 29-40, 42-46, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Willebrand et al. (US Patent No: 6,763,195).

Regarding claim 1, Willebrand teaches a node (20, fig. 3) incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (26, 28, fig. 3), the node comprising: at least one laser portion (56, fig. 3) for transmitting data (col. 8, lines 32-55); at least one radio frequency portion (58, fig. 3) for transmitting data; a data receiver (60, fig. 3) for receiving data from a data source (col. 8, lines 32-55); and a controller (62, fig. 3) configured to receive data from a data source and connected with the laser portion and the radio frequency portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 10, lines 43-47, col. 13, lines 51-65).

Regarding claims 2 and 8, Willebrand teaches the controller is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion or radio frequency portion (col. 13, lines 51-58, col. 15, lines 36-40 and 124, fig. 5).

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claims 3-4, 7, and 9, Willebrand teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and wherein the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environmental information (col. 2, lines 31-45, col. 10, lines 18-20, col. 11, lines 63-67, col. 12, lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 5, Willebrand teaches the laser portion is configured to both transmit and receive and wherein the radio frequency portion is configured to both transmit and receive (col. 6, lines 28-30, col. 10, lines 14-16).

Regarding claims 6, 13, and 16, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels (col. 1, lines 23-35, col. 5, lines 19-21, col. 6, lines 27-31 and fig. 2).

Regarding claims 10, 12, and 14, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion have transmit and receive strength, and wherein the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, and wherein the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths (col. 13, lines 55-65, col. 14, lines 49-64).

Regarding claim 11, Willebrand teaches the controller includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 14, lines 46-67, it is well known that a controller can include latches and logic devices to provide control and adjustment functions).

Regarding claim 15, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit and receive in tandem, whereby the node may be configured to

Art Unit: 2613

provide a hybrid serial link to permit tailored radio frequency or optical network connections (col. 4, lines 58-67; col. 5, lines 1-21).

Regarding claim 18, Willebrand teaches a network (20, fig. 1) of plurality of nodes (22, 24, fig. 1), wherein each node (22, figs. 1, 3) includes: at least one laser portion for transmitting data (56, fig. 3); at least one radio frequency portion for transmitting data (58, fig. 3); a data receiver for receiving data from a data source (60, fig. 3); and a controller (127, fig. 5) configured to receive data from a data source and connected (72, fig. 3) with the laser portion (56, fig. 3) and the radio frequency portion (80, 58, fig. 3) to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion or the radio frequency portion (col. 14, lines 54-64).

Regarding claims 19, 32, and 43, Willebrand teaches the controller of each node is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion or the radio frequency portion (col. 13, lines 51-58, col. 15, lines 36-40 and 124, fig. 5).

Regarding claims 20-21, 29, 33, 42 and 45, Willebrand teaches the controller of each node is configured to receive environmental information, and wherein the portion of data to be transmitted through the laser portion or the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environmental information (col. 2, lines 31-45, col. 10, lines 18-20, col. 11, lines 63-67, col. 12, lines 1-13). As to claims 29 and 42, it further requires similar limitations, as recited in claim 18 above.

Regarding claims 22, 30, 34, 36, 38, and 44, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion of each node have transmit and receive strengths and wherein the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, wherein the portions of the

Art Unit: 2613

data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths (col. 13, lines 55-65, col. 14, lines 49-64).

Regarding claims 23, 31, 37, 40, and 46, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion of each node are configured to transmit in multiple channels (col. 1, lines 23-35, col. 5, lines 19-21, col. 6, lines 27-31 and fig. 2).

Regarding claims 24, 39, and 49, Willebrand teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit and receive in tandem, whereby the node may be configured to provide a hybrid serial link to permit tailored radio frequency or optical network connections (col. 4, lines 58-67, col. 5, lines 1-21).

Regarding claim 35, Willebrand teaches the controller includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 14, lines 46-67, it is well known that a controller can include latches and logic devices to provide control and adjustment functions).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2613

5. Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 16, 18, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perdue et al.* (US Patent No: 6,529,556) in view of *Taglione et al.* (US Patent No: 5,966,225), or *Nakamura* (US Patent No: 6,583,908).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, *Perdue* teaches a node (10, fig. 1) incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (col. 2, lines 50-55), the node comprising: an IR portion (16, fig. 1) for transmitting data (col. 2, lines 15-17); a RF portion (17, fig. 1) for transmitting data (col. 2, lines 15-17); a data receiver (20, fig. 1) for receiving data from a data source (col. 2, line 16, col. 4, lines 10-17); and a controller (14, fig. 1) configured to receive data from a data source (20, fig. 1) and connected with the IR portion and the RF portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the IR portion and the RF portion (col. 2, lines 14-19, col. 5, lines 39-47 and 70, 72, fig. 4). *Perdue* differs from the claimed invention in that *Perdue* does not specifically disclose the IR portion is a laser. However, *Perdue* further teaches any one of a number of conventionally known IR transmitter arrangement may be used (col. 5, lines 23-25). It is well known to incorporate a laser for transmitting data signal, as such concept is taught by *Taglione* and *Nakamura*. *Taglione* teaches an IR transceiver (100, fig. 3 and col. 3, lines 47-56), wherein the IR emitter (108, fig. 3) can be a laser diode (col. 3, lines 53-54). *Nakamura* teaches infrared transmission/reception units (6a, 6b, 6c, figs. 1a, 1b and fig. 2) to transmit and receive light when performing data communication by a computer (col. 3, lines 3-10 and 1, fig. 2). *Nakamura* further teaches laser light may be used for the infrared transmission/reception unit (col. 5, lines 10-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a laser transmitter, as it

Art Unit: 2613

is taught by Taglione or Nakamura, for the IR portion in the data transmission system of Perdue to generate a uniform, narrow, and relatively high power output light.

Regarding claims 5, Perdue teaches the IR portion is configured to both transmit and receive and the RF portion is configured to both transmit and receive (col. 2, lines 51-55, col. 9, lines 8-24, col. 10, lines 13-34).

Regarding claims 6 and 23, Perdue teaches the IR portion and the RF portion are configured to transmit and receive in multiple channels (col. 6, lines 23-34 and 76, 78 and 80, 82, fig. 5).

Regarding claims 15 and 24, Perdue teaches the IR portion and the RF portion are configured to transmit and receive in tandem (col. 2, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 16, Perdue teaches the IR portion and the RF portion are configured to transmit and receive in multiple channels (col. 6, lines 23-34 and 76, 78 and 80, 82, fig. 5).

6. Claims 10, 12, 14, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perdue et al. (US Patent No: 6,529,556) in view of Taglione et al. (US Patent No: 5,966,225), or Nakamura (US Patent No: 6,583,908) and in further view of Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1).

Regarding claims 10, 12, 14, and 22, the modified data transmission system of Perdue and Taglione, or Nakamura differs from the claimed invention in that Perdue and Taglione, or Nakamura do not disclose the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths. Vollert teaches bi-directional transmission and reception of information over radio link (FUS, fig. 1) or optical link (IUS, fig. 1) based on verification of the transmission quality of

Art Unit: 2613

different paths (translation page 5, last paragraph and page 6, first paragraph) by a controller (PST, fig. 1) and switching (translation page 6, lines 10-12) from one link to the other based on the evaluation and measurement results (translation page 6, lines 3-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a controller such as the one of Vollert for the controller in the modified data transmission system of Perdue and Taglione to verify the transmission quality of the transmission paths.

7. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perdue et al. (US Patent No: 6,529,556) in view of Taglione et al. (US Patent No: 5,966,225), or Nakamura (US Patent No: 6,583,908) and in further view of Vowell et al. (US Patent No: 5,999,295), or Shibuya (US patent No: 6,509,991).

Regarding claim 11, the modified optical transmission system of Perdue and Taglione, or Nakamura differs from the claimed invention in that Perdue and Taglione, or Nakamura do not disclose the controller includes a plurality of latches and a logic device to further provide adjustments levels for the portions of data to be transmitted. Vowell teaches an IR transceiver module that includes an IR transmitter and receiver and a communication logic that is coupled to the transceiver to control communication (col. 3, lines 5-8), wherein the communication logic includes state machines, buffers, latches, registers, memories, etc (col. 3, lines 8-10). Likewise, Shibuya teaches a transmit and receive control unit (10, fig. 6) that is comprised of latches (59, 60, 61, fig. 6) and logic devices (62, 63, fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at time of invention that a controller such as the one of Perdue

Art Unit: 2613

can include latches and logic devices, as it is taught by Vowell or Shibuya, to provide monitoring and control functions.

Regarding claim 13, Perdue teaches the IR portion and the RF portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels (col. 6, lines 23-34 and 76, 78 and 80, 82, fig. 5).

8. Claims 17 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willebrand et al. (US Patent No: 6,763,195) in view of Driessen (US Patent No: 5,936,578).

Regarding claims 17 and 41, Willebrand differs from the claimed invention in that Willebrand does not specifically disclose an optical reflector to deflect transmission from the IR portion to work around the fixed objects. However, it is well known to incorporate a reflector or a deflector along the path of communication to pass the light around an obstacle or an object. For example, Driessen teaches an optical transmission system (fig. 6), wherein an optical reflector is used to deflect transmission from a laser portion to work around fixed objects (col. 6, lines 1-7). As it is taught by Driessen, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention to incorporate an optical reflector along the path of transmission in the wireless data communication system of Willebrand to further continue signal transmission, when an obstacle or an object prevent the passage of light, so that the signal can reach a remote sight or a destination.

9. Claims 25-28, 47-48, and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willebrand et al. (US Patent No: 6,763,195) in view of Medved et al. (US Patent No: 5,818,619), or Bloom (US Patent No: 6,323,980).

Regarding claims 25-28, 47-48, and 50-51, Willebrand differs from the claimed invention in that Willebrand does not specifically disclose a portion of the network is configured with a ring topology, or a SONET ring. Willebrand further teaches the I/O signal paths may be fiber optic or wire channels that connect the master and slave stations 22 and 24 to other wireless stations at the same location, thereby making the hybrid link 20 a repeater in a series of such hybrid links 20 in the communication network or system, and alternatively, the I/O signal paths 32 and 34 may be part of land-based fiber optic or wire communication links to distant land-based communication stations (col. 5, lines 10-20). Medved teaches wireless communication systems (80, 82, 84, fig. 5) can be applicable to any type of network such as ring network (col. 1, lines 35-40). Bloom teaches an optical transceiver (10, fig. 2) and a RF transceiver (13, fig. 2) can be used in a network with a SONET format (col. 5, lines 30-45). Therefore, as it is suggested by Willebrand, and as it is taught by Medved and Bloom, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention to incorporate the wireless data transmission system of Willebrand in a ring network, or in a SONET ring to provide and share information between other wireless devices on a network.

10. Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11, 15, 18-21, 24-26, 29-30, 32-33, 35, 39, 42-43, 45, and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593).

Regarding claims 1, 18, 29, and 42, Acampora discloses a node incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (fig. 3a), the node comprising: at least one laser portion for transmitting data (optical transmitter 112, Fig. 3a, col. 6, lines 31-54, col. 15, lines 37-47, col. 23, lines 44-52 and col. 25, lines 10-20); at least one radio frequency portion

Art Unit: 2613

for transmitting data (RF transmitter 111, Fig. 3a); a data receiver (111, Fig. 3a) for receiving data from a data source (col. 5, lines 25-45); and a controller (ATM switch 117 and control processor 114, Fig. 3a) configured to receive data from a data source and connected with the laser portion and the radio frequency portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 6, lines 31-54, col. 15, lines 37-47, col. 23, lines 44-52 and col. 25, lines 10-20 and col. 27, lines 37-56). As to claims 29 and 42, Acampora further teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (col. 5, lines 10-22 and col. 25, line 10 to col. 27, line 56).

Regarding claims 2, 8, 19, 32, and 43, Acampora further teaches the controller (ATM switch 117 and control processor 114, Fig. 3a) is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 6, lines 31-53 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claims 3, 4, 9, 20-21, 33, and 45, Acampora further teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (col. 5, lines 10-22 and col. 25, line 10 to col. 27, line 56).

Regarding claims 5 and 30, Acampora further teaches the laser portion is configured to both transmit and receive and wherein the radio frequency portion is configured to both transmit and receive (note that first and second transceivers each transmit and receive, respectively).

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claims 11 and 35, Acampora further teaches the controller (control processor 114 and ATM switch, Fig. 3a) includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and the logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 6, lines 31-53, col. 15, lines 37-47 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claims 15, 24, 39, and 49, Acampora further teaches the laser portion and radio frequency portion are configured to transmit and receive in tandem, whereby the node may be configured to provide a hybrid serial link to permit tailored radio frequency or optical network connections (col. 6, lines 35-53 and fig. 3a).

Regarding claims 25-26 and 50-51, Acampora further teaches a portion of the network is configured with a ring topology or SONET ring (col. 23, lines 49-50 and col. 24, line 47 and figs. 6, 7a, 10a, 10b).

11. Claims 6-7, 13, 16, 23, 27-28, 31, 37, 40, and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) in view of Kavehrad (the Article "A countermeasure to improve outage performance of interference-limited microwave radio links", Canadian Electrical & Computer Engineering Journal, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 13-18, 1991).

Regarding claims 6, 13, 16, 23, 31, 37, 40, and 46, Acampora differs from the claimed invention in that Acampora does not specifically disclose the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels. Kavehrad teaches hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless links (fig. 1), wherein a laser portion and a radio frequency

Art Unit: 2613

portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels (page 14, Proposed hybrid architecture section, see lines 10-26). As it is taught by Kavehrad, it would have been obvious that the hybrid optical and wireless communication system of Acampora can transmit in multiple channels to transmit and receive a plurality of different channels to further increase the transmission capacity of the system.

Regarding claim 7, Acampora teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (col. 5, lines 10-22, col. 25, line 10 to col. 27, line 56).

Regarding claims 27-28 and 47-48, Acampora teaches a portion of the network is configured with a ring topology or SONET ring (col. 23, lines 49-50 and col. 24, line 47 and figs. 6, 7a, 10a, 10b).

12. Claims 10, 12, 22, 34, 36, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) in view of Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1).

Regarding claims 10, 12, 22, 34, 36, and 44, Acampora differs from the claimed invention in that Acampora does not specifically teach the laser portion and the radio frequency portion have transmit and receive strengths and the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, wherein the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths. Vollert teaches bi-directional transmission and reception of

Art Unit: 2613

information over radio link (FUS, fig. 1) or optical link (IUS, fig. 1) based on verification of the transmission quality of different paths (Translation page 5, last paragraph and page 6, first paragraph) by a controller (PST, fig. 1) and switching (translation page 6, lines 10-12) from one link to the other based on the evaluation and measurement results (translation page 6, lines 3-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a controller such as the one of Vollert for the controller in the data transmission system of Acampora to further verify the transmission quality of the transmission paths.

13. Claims 14 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) in view of Kavehrad (Canadian Electrical & Computer Engineering Journal, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 13-18, 1991) and further Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1).

Regarding claims 14 and 38, the modified communication system of Acampora and Kavehrad differs from the claimed invention in that Acampora and Kavehrad do not specifically teach the laser portion and the radio frequency portion have transmit and receive strengths and the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, wherein the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths. Vollert teaches bi-directional transmission and reception of information over radio link (FUS, fig. 1) or optical link (IUS, fig. 1) based on verification of the transmission quality of different paths (Translation page 5, last paragraph and page 6, first paragraph) by a controller (PST, fig. 1) and switching (translation page 6, lines 10-12) from one link to the other based on the evaluation and measurement results

Art Unit: 2613

(translation page 6, lines 3-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a controller such as the one of Vollert for the controller in the data transmission system of Acampora modified by Kavehrad to verify the transmission quality of the transmission paths.

14. Claims 17 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) in view of Driessen et al (US Patent No. 5,936,578).

Regarding claims 17 and 41, Acampora differs from the claimed invention in that Acampora does not specifically teach an optical reflector is used to deflect transmissions from the laser portion to work around the fixed objects. However, it is well known to incorporate a reflector or a deflector along the path of communication to pass the light around an obstacle or an object. For example, Driessen teaches an optical transmission system (fig. 6), wherein an optical reflector is used to deflect transmissions from a laser portion to work around the fixed objects (col. 6, lines 1-7). As it is taught by Driessen, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention to incorporate an optical reflector along the path of transmission in the wireless data communication system of Acampora to further continue signal transmission, when an obstacle or an object prevent the passage of light, so that the signal can reach a remote sight or a destination.

15. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15, 18-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1) in view of Acampora (US Patent No: 6,049,593).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Vollert discloses a node incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (fig. 1), the node comprising: at least one infrared portion for transmitting data (ISE, IUS, fig. 1); at least one radio frequency portion for transmitting data (A, FUS, fig. 1); a data receiver (SP, fig. 1) for receiving data from a data source (Translation, page 5, last paragraph); and a controller (PST, fig. 1) configured to receive data from a data source and connected with the infrared portion and the radio frequency portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the infrared portion and the radio frequency portion (Translation, page 5, last paragraph). Vollert differs from the claimed invention in that Vollert does not specifically disclose a laser portion. Acampora teaches a hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless links (fig. 3a), wherein optical signals are generated by laser portion (col. 23, lines 44-52 and col. 25, lines 10-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a laser portion such as the one of Acampora, for the IR portion in the data transmission system of Vollert to generate a uniform, narrow, and relatively high power output signal.

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 19, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches the controller is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claims 3, 4, 9, 20 and 21, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the

Art Unit: 2613

controller based on the environment information (Acampora, col. 5, lines 10-22, col. 25, line 10 to col. 27, line 56).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches the laser portion is configured to both transmit and receive and wherein the radio frequency portion is configured to both transmit and receive (Vollert, FUS, IUS, fig. 1 and Acampora, fig. 3a).

Regarding claims 10, 12 and 22, Vollert teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion have transmit and receive strengths and the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, wherein the portions of data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths (Vollert, translation, page 6, lines 3-18).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches the controller (Acampora, for example control processor 114 and ATM switch, fig. 3a) includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and the logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Vollert, translation, page 5, last paragraph and Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53, col. 15, lines 37-47 and col. 27, lines 37-56)

Regarding claims 15 and 24, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches the laser portion and radio frequency portion are configured to transmit and receive in tandem, whereby the node may be configured to provide a hybrid serial link to permit tailored radio frequency or optical network connections (Vollert, translation, page 8, last paragraph and Acampora, fig. 3a).

Regarding claims 25 and 26, the combination of Vollert and Acampora teaches a portion of the network is configured with a ring topology or SONET ring (Acampora, col. 23, lines 49-50 and col. 24, line 47 and figs. 6, 7a, 10a, 10b).

16. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, 23, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1) in view of Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) and further in view of Kavehrad (Canadian Electrical & Computer Engineering Journal, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 13-18, 1991).

Regarding claims 6, 13, 16 and 23, the combination of Vollert and Acampora differs from the claimed invention in that Vollert and Acampora do not specifically disclose the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels. Kavehrad teaches a hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication system (fig. 1), wherein the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are configured to transmit in multiple channels (see page 14, Proposed hybrid architecture section, lines 10-26). As it is taught by Kavehrad, it would have been obvious that the hybrid optical and wireless communication system of Vollert modified by Acampora can transmit multiple channels to transmit and receive a plurality of different channels to further increase the transmission capacity of the system.

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Vollert, Acampora, and Kavehrad teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (Acampora, col. 27, lines 37-56).

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claim 14, Vollert teaches the laser portion and the radio frequency portion have transmit and receive strengths and the controller is configured to monitor the transmit and receive strengths, wherein the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on their transmit and receive strengths (Vollert, translation, page 6, lines 3-18).

Regarding claims 27 and 28, the combination of Vollert, Acampora and Kavehrad teaches a portion of the network is configured with a ring topology or SONET ring (Acampora, col. 23, lines 49-50 and col. 24, line 47 and figs. 6, 7a, 10a, 10b and Vollert, translation, page 6, lines 3-18).

17. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vollert (German Patent No: DE 44 33 896 C1) in view of Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593) and further in view of Driessen et al (US Patent No. 5,936,578).

Regarding claim 17, the combination of Vollert and Acampora differs from the claimed invention in that Vollert and Acampora do not specifically disclose an optical reflector to deflect transmissions from the laser portion to work around the fixed objects. However, it is well known to incorporate a reflector or a deflector along the path of communication to pass the light around an obstacle or an object. For example, Driessen teaches an optical transmission system (fig. 6), wherein an optical reflector is used to deflect transmissions from a laser portion to work around the fixed objects (col. 6, lines 1-7). As it is taught by Driessen, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention to incorporate an optical reflector along the path of transmission in the wireless data communication system of Vollert modified by Acampora to further continue

Art Unit: 2613

signal transmission, when an obstacle or an object prevent the passage of light, so that the signal can reach a remote sight or a destination.

18. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US Patent No: 4,904,993) in view of Acampora (US Patent No: 6,049,593).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Sato discloses a node incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (fig. 1), the node comprising: at least one optical portion for transmitting data (optical transmitter 14 and 13, fig. 1); at least one radio frequency portion for transmitting data (RF transmitter 12 and 11, fig. 1); a data receiver (data supply 15 and data generator 16, fig. 1) for receiving data from a data source; and a controller (switches 17 and 18 control the routing of data to either RF portion 12 or optical portion 14) configured to receive data from a data source (15, fig. 1) and connected with the optical portion and the radio frequency portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the optical portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 2, lines 25-47, 51-67 and col. 3, lines 1-3). Sato differs from claimed invention in that Sato does not specifically disclose the optical portion generates the optical signals by a laser. Acampora teaches a hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless links (fig. 3a), wherein the Infrared signals can be generated by laser (col. 23, lines 44-52 and col. 25, lines 10-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a laser portion such as the one of Acampora, for the optical portion in the data transmission system of Sato to generate a uniform, narrow, and relatively high power output signal.

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 19, the combination of Sato and Acampora teaches the controller is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claims 3, 4, 9, 20 and 21, the combination of Sato and Acampora teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (Acampora, col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Sato and Acampora teaches the laser portion is configured to both transmit and receive and the radio frequency portion is configured to both transmit and receive (Acampora, fig. 3a).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Sato and Acampora teaches the controller (Acampora, for example control processor 114 and ATM switch in fig. 3a) includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and the logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53, col. 15, lines 37-47 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

19. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zavrel (US Patent No. 5,585,953) in view of Acampora (US Patent No. 6,049,593).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Zavrel discloses a node incorporating hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication links (fig. 1), the node comprising: at least one infrared

Art Unit: 2613

portion for transmitting data (IR transmitter 24, fig. 1); at least one radio frequency portion for transmitting data (RF transmitter 12, fig. 1); a data receiver (data controller 16, fig. 2) for receiving data from a data source; and a controller (for example, switches 20 and 22, fig. 1) configured to receive data from a data source and connected with the infrared portion and the radio frequency portion to allocate portions of the data to be transmitted through the infrared portion and the radio frequency portion (col. 1, lines 62-67 and col. 2, lines 1-11). Zavrel differs from the claimed invention in that Zavrel does not specifically disclose the infrared signals are generated by a laser. Acampora teaches a hybrid radio frequency and optical wireless communication system (fig. 3a), wherein optical signals are generated by laser (col. 23, lines 44-52 and col. 25, lines 10-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a laser portion such as the one of Acampora, for the IR portion in the data transmission system of Zavrel to generate a uniform, narrow, and relatively high power output signal.

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 19, the combination of Zavrel and Acampora teaches the controller is configured as a binary switch such that the data is transmitted exclusively through either one of the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

Regarding claims 3, 4, 9, 20 and 21, the combination of Zavrel and Acampora teaches the controller is configured to receive environmental information and the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion are adjusted by the controller based on the environment information (Acampora, col. 27, lines 37-56).

Art Unit: 2613

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Zavrel and Acampora teaches the laser portion is configured to both transmit and receive and wherein the radio frequency portion is configured to both transmit and receive (Zavrel, fig. 1 and Acampora, fig. 3a).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Zavrel and Acampora teaches the controller (Acampora, processor 114 and ATM switch, fig. 3a) includes a plurality of latches and a logic device, wherein the plurality of latches and the logic device operate to provide adjustment levels for the portions of the data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion (Acampora, col. 6, lines 31-53, col. 15, lines 37-47 and col. 27, lines 37-56).

20. Applicant's arguments filed on 5/5/06 with respect to claims 1-51 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that Willebrand does not specifically teach a laser portion. However, Willebrand in col. 1, lines 66-67, clearly states:

“**laser** beam projects in a straight line between the communication points” (emphasis added),
in col. 4, lines 45-52 clearly states:

“free space optical communication technology (preferably **laser** systems ... to achieve a wireless terrestrial hybrid **laser**/microwave communication link for the communication data between two communication end-points of the hybrid link 20 at stations 22 and 24”(emphasis added), and

in col. 4, lines 60-62 clearly states:

“An optical signal, such as **laser** beam, is projected in an optical path 26”(emphasis added).

Consequently, Willebrand does teach a laser portion.

Applicant argued that Willebrand does not expressly or inherently specify the use of a data source. However, almost the whole patent of Willebrand discloses transmission of **data** via either the IR link or the RF link or both. Of course there must be a data source for generating the data. Furthermore col. 5, lines 29-32 clearly states:

“The I/O signal paths 32 and 34 may be any **source** or delivery path of **data** signal in the communication network or system” (emphasis added).

Art Unit: 2613

Thus, Willebrand does teach a data source.

Applicant argued that Willebrand does not teach allocating portions of data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion. However, Willebrand does teach such limitation, for examples, Willebrand in lines 4-7 of the abstract clearly states:

"The optical link provides the primary path for the data, and the RF link provides a concurrent or backup path for the network data"(emphasis added),

in col. 1, lines 26-31, clearly states:

"for communicating data through a communication link having both a free-space optical path and a parallel wireless RF path. The data is transmitted over the higher capacity optical path when..., and the data is transmitted over the RF path"(emphasis added),

in col. 2, lines 60-63, clearly states:

"communicating the data in an optical signal transmitted through a free-space optical path... and communicating the data in a radio frequency (RF) signal transmitted through a free-space RF path" (emphasis added),

in col. 3, lines 29-39, clearly states:

"a free-space optical link...for transmitting and receiving an optical signal therebetween containing the data... a free-space RF link portion... for transmitting and receiving an RF signal therebetween containing the data"(emphasis added),

in col. 3, lines 52-60, clearly states:

"the data to be transmitted over the optical and RF paths... A switch within the station...routes the data between the optical link ... and routes the data between the RF link" (emphasis added),

in col. 4, lines 65 to col. 5, line 1, clearly states:

"Data contained in the optical and RF signals is thereby communicated between the two stations"(emphasis added),

in col. 5, lines 21-29, clearly states:

"The optical path 26 serves....communication path for the data transmitted between the master and slave stations.. RF path 28 also serves ... data communication path in a Standby mode of operation...In the standby mode, the RF path carries the data"(emphasis added),

in col. 6, lines 9-22, clearly states:

"the data is communicated through the RF path 28.... to allow reliable optical communication of data in the optical path 26"(emphasis added),

in col. 6, lines 39-40, clearly states:

"the optical and RF network data signals in the optical and RF paths"(emphasis added),

Art Unit: 2613

in col. 9, lines 13-42, clearly states:

"The master and slave TIUs 60 and 68 route the data to their respective master and slave OTs 56 and 64 across an optical data ...the master and slave TIUs 60 and 68 route data through the respective master and slave RF transceivers 58 and 66" (emphasis added),

in col. 14, lines 35-39, clearly states:

"In another alternative implementation, ...both the optical path 26 and the RF path 28 are fully utilized simultaneously for communication of data"(emphasis added),

in col. 14, lines 55 to 65, clearly states:

"routes the data through the optical data I/O bus 72... routes the data through the RF link portion"(emphasis added), and

in col. 16, lines 34-35, clearly states:

"for routing the data through the appropriate optical or RF path"(emphasis added).

Therefore, Willebrand does teach allocating portions of data to be transmitted through the laser portion and the radio frequency portion.

Applicant argued that Willebrand does not teach the controller is configured to receive environmental information to further transmit the data through the laser portion and the RF portion based on environmental information. However, willebrand does teach such limitation, for examples, Willebrand, in lines 7-11 of the abstract, clearly states:

"When atmospheric conditions degrade the optical link to the point at which optical data transmission fails, the hybrid communication link switches to the RF link to maintain availability of data communication"(emphasis added),

in col. 1, lines 28-34, clearly states:

"The data is transmitted over the higer capacity optical path when favorable free-space atmospheric conditions prevail, and the data is transmitted over RF path when free-space atmospheric conditions have degraded" (emphasis added),

in col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 3, clearly states:

"The optical link is used to transmit the data whenever there is a benefit to using the optical path, and the RF link is used whenever atmospheric conditions in the optical path cause of the optical path to fail or degrade the transmission of the optical signals"(emphasis added),

in col. 3, lines 45-47, clearly states:

"when the optical path fails or degrades because of atmospheric influences, the data is routed for transmission by the RF transceivers over the RF path"(emphasis added),

in col. 5, lines 22-42, clearly states:

"The optical path 26 serves as the main or preferred

Art Unit: 2613

communication path for the **data** transmitted

The RF path 28 also serves as a reliable backup **data** communication path...**RF path 28 carries the data because** the optical path 26 has failed in transmitting... **due to the degrading atmospheric or other influences in such as the light refractive influences of rain, fog, mist, snow, dust, or other severe weather conditions"** (emphasis added),

in col. 11, line 64 to col. 12, line 12, clearly states:

"Under severe weather conditions, for example, either the master or slave.... switch the data communication to the RF link portion"(emphasis added),

in col. 14, lines 7-12, clearly states:

"the switching from the active to standby modes occurs **automatically** upon optical beam failure or degradation **due to severe weather condition"** (emphasis added),

Thus, Willebrand does teach the controller is configured to receive environmental information to further transmit data through the laser portion and the RF portion base on environmental information.

Applicant further argued that Perdue reference does not teach transmitting portions of data through the laser portion and RF portion. However, Perdue in col. 4, lines 18-20, states:

a controller 14 which receives the user input and generates an appropriate remote control signal.

in col. 4, lines 38-40, clearly states:

controller 14 applies the appropriate signals to the IR transmitter 16 and/or RF transmitter 17 to send control signals to the device to be controlled.

Thus, Perdue does teach allocating portions of data to be transmitted through the IR portion and the radio frequency portion.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. R. Sedighian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3034.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (from 9 AM to 5 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2613

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M. R. Sedighian
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PRIMARY EXAMINER